This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing computer hardware components, the method comprising:

(a) displaying a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute;

(b) in response to user input, indicating a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components, wherein indicating the selected status includes:

(1) selecting a filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, each of the plurality of predetermined filter criteria associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views;

(2) comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against the selected filter criterion; and

(3) selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the selected filter criterion, wherein the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection;

(c) after indicating the selected status for the multiple hardware components, dynamically retrieving a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple

hardware components having a selected status, wherein the list of available management operations includes only management operations that are appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components having a selected status;

(d) displaying the list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu after indicating the selected status for the multiple hardware components; and

(e) ~~(d)~~ performing a management operation from among the list of available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input directed to the context sensitive menu.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pictorial representation includes a diagram of at least one enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed, the diagram further depicting a physical location of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the first diagram depicts a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint, and wherein the pictorial representation further includes a second diagram depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components comprises an unused interface component configured to physically interconnect with another hardware component, the method further comprising managing the unused interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation.

5.-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein each hardware component is associated with a hardware type, and wherein the filter criterion identifies a selected hardware type, wherein selecting those hardware components includes selecting those hardware components associated with the selected hardware type.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, further comprising updating the indication of the selected status for at least one of the multiple hardware components responsive to selection of those hardware components associated with attributes that match the filter criterion.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components, the method further comprising displaying within the pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising visually highlighting those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the status of a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components to one of a selected and an unselected status responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the multiple hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers, wherein performing the management operation includes performing the management operation in each of the plurality of computers.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein at least two of the plurality of computers utilize different types of computer platforms.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically retrieving the list of available management operations is performed in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of at least one of the at least two selected hardware components.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the user input includes locating a user-manipulated pointer over that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component, the method further comprising displaying the retrieved status information within a pop-up window disposed proximate that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a first computer, and

wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is physically located in the first computer.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the pictorial representation and indicating the selected status are performed on a first computer, and wherein at least a portion of the plurality of hardware components are physically located in a second computer in communication with the first computer.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is disposed in a computer selected from the group consisting of a single-user computer, a multi-user computer, a clustered computer, a multi-unit computer, and combinations thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

(a) a memory; and

(b) a program resident in the memory and configured to display a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute, the program further configured to indicate, in response to user input, a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components; to dynamically retrieve a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status after indicating the selected status for the multiple hardware components; to display the list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu after indicating

the selected status for the multiple hardware components; and to perform a management operation from among the list of available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input directed to the context sensitive menu, wherein the program is configured to indicate the selected status by selecting a filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against the selected filter criterion, and selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the selected filter criterion, wherein the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined filter criteria is associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views, and wherein the list of available management operations includes only management operations that are appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components having a selected status.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the pictorial representation includes a diagram of at least one enclosure within which the plurality of hardware components is disposed, the diagram further depicting a physical location of each of the plurality of hardware components in the enclosure.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the first diagram depicts a first view of the enclosure taken from a first viewpoint, and wherein the pictorial representation further includes a second diagram depicting a second view of the enclosure taken from a second viewpoint.

26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components comprises an unused interface component configured to physically interconnect with another hardware component, wherein the program is further

configured to manage the unused interface component through user input directed to the pictorial representation.

27.-29. (Canceled).

30. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 ~~27~~, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one of a plurality of diagrams, each of which depicting a physical location of at least one of the plurality of hardware components, wherein the program is further configured to display within the pictorial representation only those diagrams from the plurality of diagrams that depict the physical location of at least one hardware component having a selected status.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to visually highlight those portions of the pictorial representation that depict the physical configurations of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to update the status of a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components to one of a selected and an unselected status responsive to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the multiple hardware components are physically located in a plurality of computers, wherein the program is further configured to perform the management operation by performing the management operation in each of the plurality of computers.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to dynamically retrieve the list of available management operations in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of at least one of the at least two selected hardware components.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to retrieve status information associated with a first hardware component among the plurality of hardware components in response to user input directed to that portion of the pictorial representation that depicts the physical configuration of the first hardware component.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program is resident on the same computer as the plurality of hardware components.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein at least one of the plurality of hardware components is physically located on a different computer from that within which the program is resident.

40. (Currently Amended) A program product, comprising:

(a) a program configured to display a pictorial representation on a computer display, the pictorial representation associated with a plurality of hardware components and representing a physical configuration of each of the plurality of hardware components that conveys a relative placement and location of at least a subset of the hardware components in physical space, wherein each of the plurality of hardware components is associated with at least one attribute, the

program further configured to indicate, in response to user input, a selected status for multiple hardware components from the plurality of hardware components within the pictorial representation associated with the plurality of hardware components; to dynamically retrieve a list of available management operations associated with at least two selected hardware components among the multiple hardware components having a selected status after indicating the selected status for the multiple hardware components; to display the list of available management operations within a context sensitive menu after indicating the selected status for the multiple hardware components; and to perform a management operation from among the list of available management operations on all of the multiple hardware components that have a selected status responsive to user input directed to the context sensitive menu, wherein the program is configured to indicate the selected status by selecting a filter criterion from a plurality of predetermined filter criteria, comparing attributes associated with the plurality of hardware components against the selected filter criterion, and selecting those hardware components associated with attributes that match the selected filter criterion, wherein the pictorial representation continues to depict at least one non-selected hardware component after such selection, wherein each of the plurality of predetermined filter criteria is associated with a predetermined view among a plurality of views, and wherein the list of available management operations includes only management operations that are appropriate for being performed on all of the multiple hardware components having a selected status; and

(b) a physical computer readable signal bearing medium bearing the program.

41. (Previously Presented) The program product of claim 40, wherein the physical computer readable signal bearing medium includes a recordable medium.

42.-45. (Canceled).